

SNPWA and MERWA on following issues with senior officers of DOT and BSNL on various crucial issues on 4th May, 24. GS/ SNPWA, GS/ MERWA, Com Mudgal and CHQ Vice President/ SNPWA, Com D. C. Sharma.

Meeting with Member (Services)/ DOT on the issue of Pension Revision

Detailed discussion lasting for about 45 minutes took place with Member (Services) where DDG(E)/ DOT and would be Member Services, Respected Sh. A. K. Sahu, a very old, extremely pragmatic, positive and quite intimate friend of ours - when he was in BSNL, were present.

Member (Services) informed us to hold patience since fitment is not the only aspect related to Pension Revision but there are other significant issues related to it; which are being sorted out in consultation with various departments.

Member (Services) apprised us in detail since DOT has to finalize eventually Cabinet note for approval of the Union Cabinet, DOT has to ensure that other connected and equally important aspects of the proposal, besides fitment criteria on which serious discussions are already underway between Member (Finance) and Secy(T), are holistically addressed and which are being discussed in consultation with other departments.

Member (Services) categorically said that since preparation of Cabinet note is eventually sole responsibility of Establishment Section, it has to ensure that all ancillary issues of Pension Revision are sorted out before crucial Cabinet note will be prepared and he further apprised that for sorting out these issues, Establishment Section is already on the job.

Regarding fitment, Member (Services) mentioned that discussion between M(F) and Secy (T) are going out and, since for fitment, file has to be sent to D.O.E, *probably parallel discussions are going on with concerned officers of D.O E.*

During the discussion lasting for about 45 minutes, Member (Services) informed us that he expects file will be sent to D.O.E towards the end of this month and advised us to hold patience to ensure that issue finally gets through smoothly and does not encounter any road blocks.

We were extremely delighted to know that our old time and very very intimate acquaintance of ours, Respected Sh. A. K. Sahu, who is presently O S D to Member (Services) is to take over as Member (Services) on 1st August, 23 and has a year to render Services till July, 24.

Meeting with DDG(E)/ DOT

After the meeting with Member (Services) was over DDG(E) specifically asked us to come to her Chamber to discuss the issue of neutralization of 5% IDA to Pensioners of MTNL having retired prior to 1.1.2018.

DDG(E) informed us that some Association representatives had gone to D.O. E and held discussions with them without really knowing what the issue is and what the role of D.O.E is, thereby and for what purpose file has been sent to D.O.E, thereby completely confusing concerned D.O.E officials like anything.

DDG(E) informed us it is not desirable to meet D.O.E officials on the issue without knowing what exactly the role of D.O. E. is and for what purpose file has been sent to D.O E with approval of Secy (T) about eight to nine months before.

DDG(E) emphatically mentioned that D.O.E has no role neither in extending 5% IDA neutralization nor extending 78 2% as was raised by some Associations with concerned officials of D.O.E officials for Pensioners of MTNL having retired prior to 1.1.2918. By raising such issues with concerned officers of

D. O.E., they got completely confused since issue about which D.O.E has to give its approval is that MTNL has to own the liability of 5% IDA which it has finally agreed to bear the liability that arises for payment of 5% IDA to Pensioners of MTNL having retired prior to 1.1.2018 since MTNL Pensioners are already drawing Pension more than BSNL Pensioners.

Finally, after collecting comprehensive data from MTNL, the file has been sent to D O E with the approval of Secy (T), specifically conveying to D.O E that MTNL and DOT has agreed to bear this additional liability and asked D.O.E to release the funds accordingly. In fact, DDG(E) that funds have been already allocated by D.E.A for this purpose but in between D.O. E officials wanted some more clarifications. By visiting D.O. E and asking them to extend 5% IDA neutralization and 78.2 % about which they have no business and are not involved at all means simply confusing them and complicating matters.

DDG(E) advised us not to visit D.O E since funds has been allocated already by D.E.A but D.O.E officials wanted some more clarifications. For this purpose, DDG(E) informed us that Director (E) is visiting D.O E shortly, depending on the availability of concerned officials of D.O E.

After getting this approval for release of funds, DOT will issue orders for payment of 5% IDA neutralization to Pensioners of MTNL who have retired prior to 1.1.2018. D. O. E is in no way involved in issuing of orders in this regard. This is possible only since MTNL and DOT has conveyed to DOE that it is ready to bear liability of 5% IDA neutralization.

Regarding remaining 4.2% IDA neutralization nothing is moving in DOT and as such question of neutralization of entire 78.2% does not arise.

Meeting with Director (Finance) / BSNL and Sr GM(Taxation)

Regarding treating one time reimbursement of CGHS Taxable

We submitted all the details to Director (Finance) clearly justifying that onetime payment of CGHS is nothing but premium on Insurance. We reiterated that CGHS is nothing but a medical insurance for us.

On being asked what are the parameters on the basis of which it is not being treated as premium, Taxation officials mentioned that since premium on medical insurance is paid yearly but here the reimbursement is made one time.

We successfully and effectively countered and negated this Argument by apprising Director/ Finance that there is a provision to pay CGHS payment every month/ yearly up to ten years exactly in same manner in which premium on medical insurance is paid and to that extent we reproduced the orders. Besides, all other arguments raised by Taxation Unit were successfully encountered by us.

After a very intensive and thorough discussion, Director/ Finance as well as Sr GM Taxation appeared to be convinced by our arguments justifying that it is premium on Insurance and **hence not Taxable**.

At this stage, Director/ Finance had a very deep and serious thinking on the issue.

Director/ Finance finally advised us to ask all those who have paid Tax to seek exemption and convey others to show it as non-Taxable in their ITR returns.

Director/ Finance and Sr GM Taxation asked us to submit all the facts and both Director/ Finance and Sr GM/ Taxation assured us that they will firmly and unambiguously write to joint Commissioner that it is a premium on Insurance and not taxable.

Director/ Finance assured that after taking up issue with Joint Commissioner Income Tax, he will use his well-known contacts in Income Tax department to get it exempted from tax. Director/ Finance assured that

he will surely take the issue to its logical end and further directed Sr GM(Taxation) to get fully involved in the issue. Sr GM(Taxation) on his part assured Director/ Finance that he will surely personally pursue the issue with Joint Commissioner Income Tax till the issue is resolved.

At the end of the meeting Director/ Finance informed us to leave the issue to him for its immediate and positive resolution.